



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/679,376	10/07/2003	Jean Gobert	2003-1412	4286

7590 11/22/2004

WENDEROTH, LIND & PONACK
Suite 800
2033 "K" Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20006-1021

EXAMINER

BERNHARDT, EMILY B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1624

DATE MAILED: 11/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/679,376	GOBERT, JEAN
Examiner	Art Unit	
Emily Bernhardt	1624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 September 2004.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. 6) Other: _____.

In view of applicant's response filed 9/15/04 the following still applies.

The obviousness type double patenting rejection is withdrawn in view of the competent date of the US patent as a reference as applicants urge.

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1-9 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cossement, Merck Index and Baltes for the reasons given previously. Extrinsic evidence is permitted to be considered in anticipations for explaining (or evidencing) what the meaning of the reference would have meant to those skilled in the art at the time the invention was made. Note for example, Ciba-Geigy v Alza 37 USPQ 2d 1337. Note that the supplemental references relied on herein in fact evidence what the skilled artisan knew about the various uses and forms of administration of cetirizine prior to the Cossement publication. One reading Cossement would include all forms of cetirizine as having the uses disclosed on p.1 since the reference is directed to better ways of preparing cetirizine and its 2 isomers. One looks to higher yielding processes for making useful (not useless) products which is how applicant's own specification synopsizes the Cossement (commonly owned with common inventors) reference.

Claims 1-9 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cossement, Baltes and Merck for reasons given previously.

The comparative showing (taken from the specification) applicant relies on is between the 2 optical isomers and not the racemate which is the thrust of the teachings in the prior art. Note any such showing with the racemate v. the individual isomer must demonstrate superior and unexpected results over the racemic product. Note the case law on optical isomers cited in previous action. Note that Baltes describes the corresponding racemate as being devoid of secondary effects usually encountered with conventional antihistamines in col.1.

Claims 1-9 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gray. Applicant does not traverse this rejection but appears to intend to antedate it as a reference. However the claims cover in part subject matter being claimed herein. Note MPEP 2306, **especially section (C)** and 35 U.S.C. 1.35(b).

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a). A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed

within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Emily Bernhardt whose telephone number is 71-272-0664.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the acting supervisor for AU 1624, James O. Wilson can be reached at 571-272-0661. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

EBernhardt
EMILY BERNHARDT
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 120